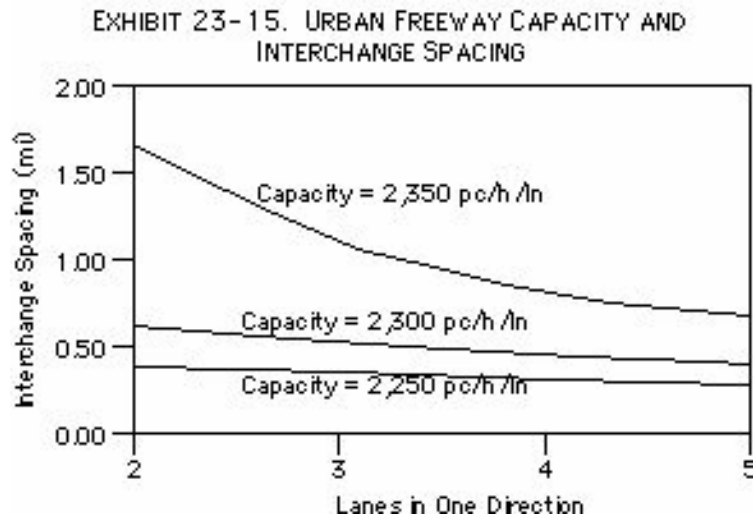


determined in part by the capacity of the roadway being analyzed. For rural freeways with at least two lanes in one direction and interchange spacing of at least 2 miles, a capacity of 2,400 pc/h/ln is assumed. The HCM provides Exhibit 23-15 to determine the capacity for urban freeways with shorter interchange spacing or a different number of lanes.



Accurate calibration of the freeway model requires data directly from the field that correctly describes the actual conditions. As the HCM states, studies by analysts have determined that there is no direct way to calibrate the capacity of a freeway system using field conditions. Therefore, estimated FFS and demand must be adjusted with field conditions in order to arrive at an accurate LOS determination. However, the HCM also points out that density can be measured directly in the field because all three of the factors that make up its units (number of cars per mile per lane) can be accurately observed and/or measured. This density can then be used to determine LOS directly.